

4.0 Existing Conditions

The most basic elements of the pedestrian network are sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, and curb ramps. Sidewalks provide a space for pedestrian activity separated from motor vehicle traffic. Curb ramps provide a transition between the raised sidewalk and the crosswalk for persons using mobility assistance devices. Trails also provide a separation from motor vehicle traffic, although pedestrians may have to share trails with bicyclists and other non-motorized users. These elements should form a connected network that is functional, safe, and encourages people to walk. The following sections describe the key elements of the City of Carlsbad pedestrian network, including sidewalks, curb ramps, street lights, and trails. Gaps and areas of low pedestrian facility coverage are highlighted.

4.1 Sidewalks

According to the most recent sidewalk inventory, there are currently about 500 linear miles of sidewalk within Carlsbad. Approximately 305 miles of a total 339 miles of publically-maintained Carlsbad roadways (or roughly 90% percent), provide sidewalks within the roadway cross-section, along one or two sides of the roadway. There are approximately 33.7 miles of roadway within the City that do not provide sidewalks. The City of Carlsbad maintains an inventory of sidewalks in a GIS database that allows the sidewalk network to be mapped and analyzed.



Table 4.1 summarizes roadways without sidewalks by City of Carlsbad quadrant. As shown, the Northwest and Southwest quadrants currently have the highest proportion of total roadways without sidewalks, with roughly 56.1% of all roadways without sidewalks in the Northwest quadrant, and 21.7% of all roadways without sidewalks in the Southwest quadrant. Almost 93% of the City's sidewalks are 5 feet wide. Approximately 3%, or 14.4 miles, of City sidewalks are wider than 5 feet, ranging from 5.5 feet to 20 feet. Most of the wider sidewalks are located in the Village along Carlsbad Village Drive, State Street, Grand Avenue, Madison Avenue, and Carlsbad Boulevard along the beach. Sidewalks in downtown, where present, are typically 10 feet wide.

Figure 4-1 displays the roughly 500 total miles of existing sidewalks in the City of Carlsbad, as well as the roadways without sidewalks.

Table 4.1
City of Carlsbad Roadways Without Sidewalks by Quadrant

Quadrant	Miles of Roadways without Sidewalks	Percent of Total Missing Sidewalks
Northwest	18.9 miles	56.1%
Northeast	3.6 miles	10.7%
Southwest	7.3 miles	21.7%
Southeast	3.9 miles	11.5%
TOTAL	33.7 miles	100%

Source: Alta Planning + Design, City of Carlsbad 2007 Sidewalks Shapefile

4.2 Curb Ramps

According to the most recent curb ramp inventory there are 4,623 curb ramps in the City of Carlsbad. **Figure 4-2** displays intersections without curb ramps in the City of Carlsbad. **Table 4.2** summarizes the City's curb ramp conditions by city quadrant.

Table 4.2
City of Carlsbad Curb Ramp Conditions by Quadrant

Quadrant	Total Curb Ramps	Curb Ramps in "Good" Condition	Curb Ramps in "Fair" Condition	Curb Ramps in "Poor" Conditions
Northwest	1,390	1,352 (97%)	35 (2.5%)	3 (0.5%)
Northeast	674	627 (93%)	46 (6.9%)	1 (0.1%)
Southwest	838	760 (90.9%)	77 (9.0%)	1 (0.1%)
Southeast	1,716	1,502 (87.5%)	214 (12.5%)	0
TOTAL	4,618	4,241 (91%)	372 (8%)	5 (<1%)

Source: Alta Planning + Design, City of Carlsbad 2007 Curb Ramp Shapefile

Figure 4-1:
2007 Sidewalk Inventory

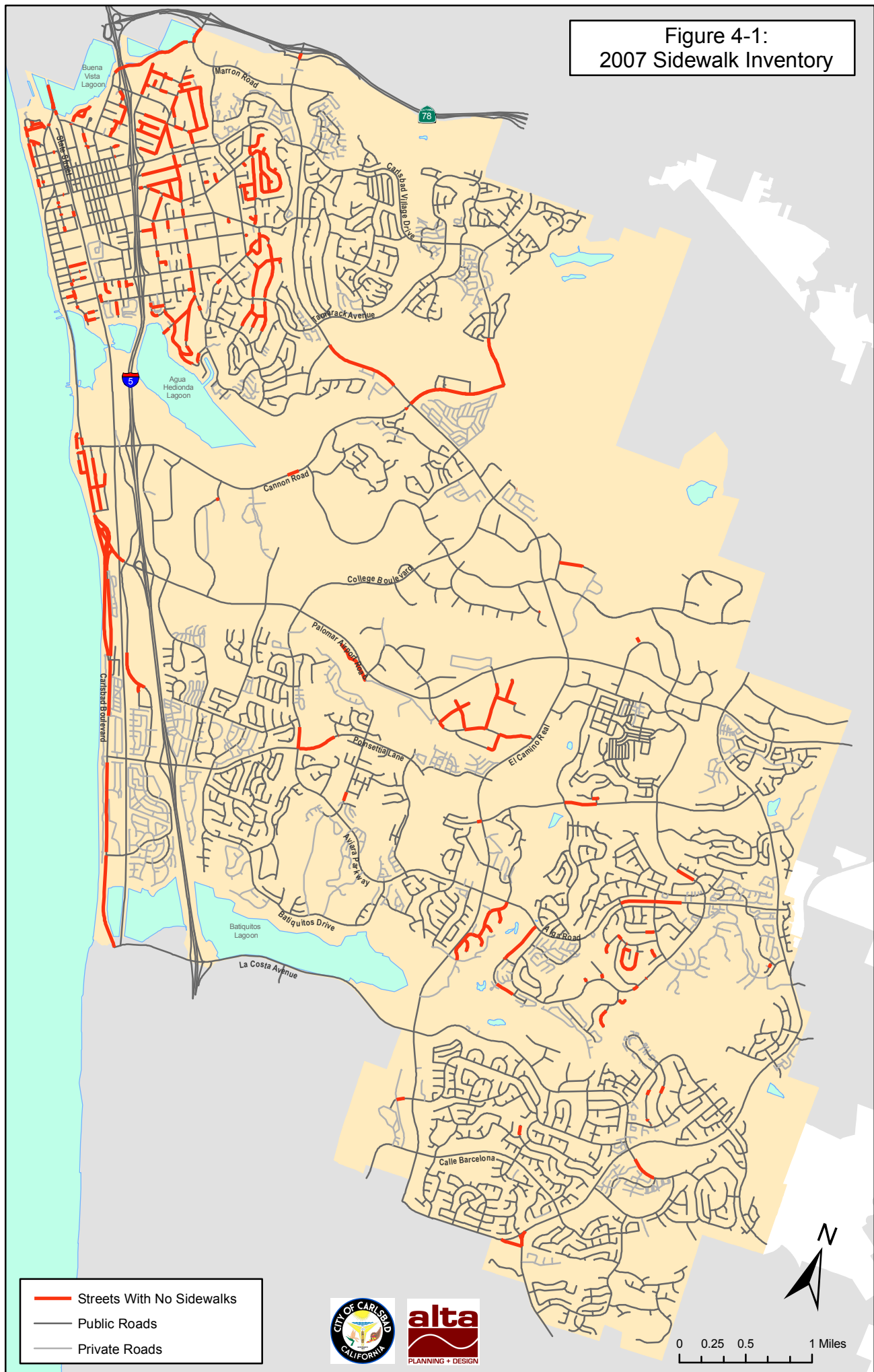
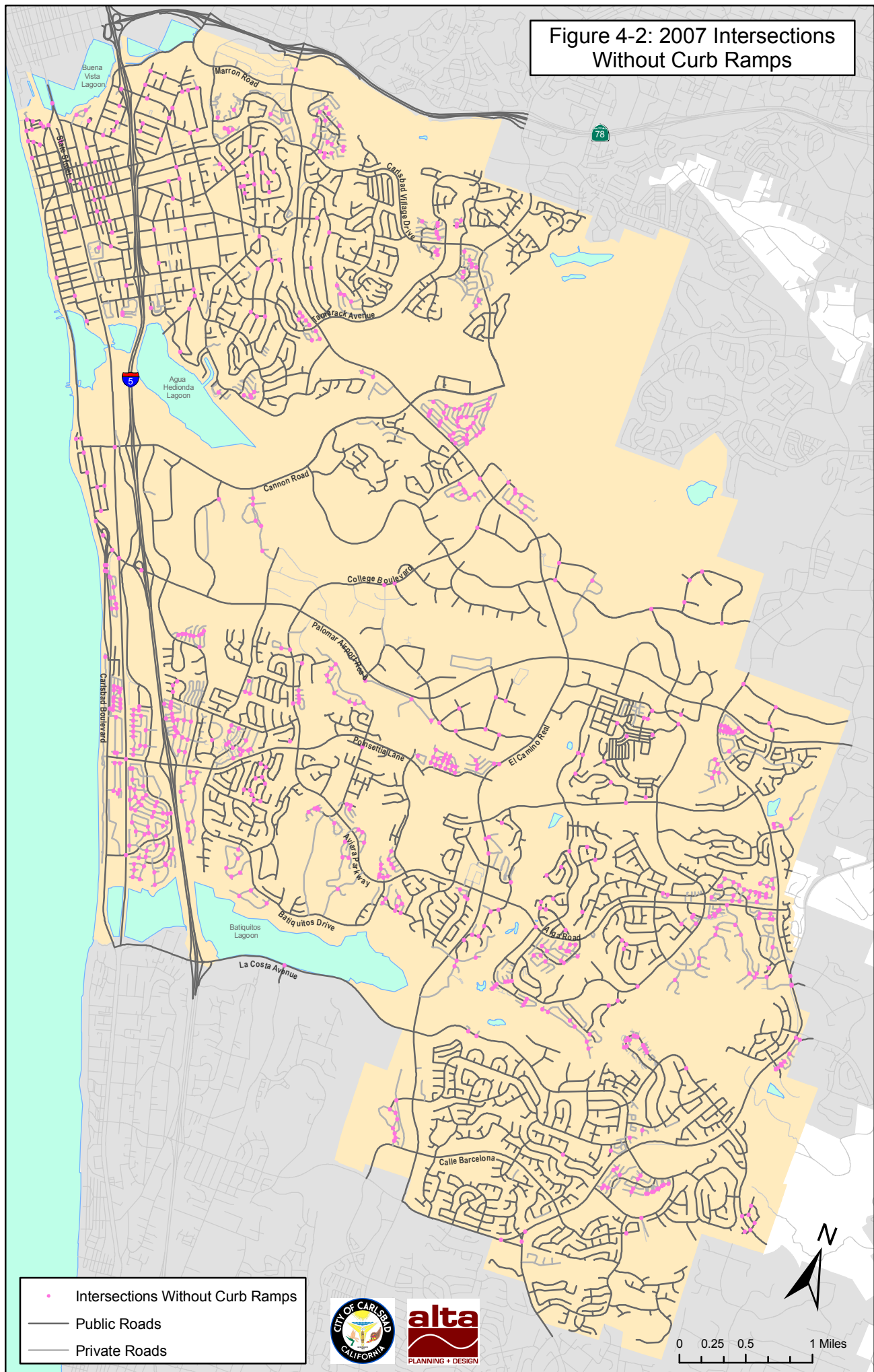


Figure 4-2: 2007 Intersections Without Curb Ramps



Approximately 91% of the curb ramps are rated as being in “good” condition, 8% are rated as being in “fair” condition, and less than 1% are rated as being in “poor” condition. Curb ramps in poor condition were identified at the following locations: El Camino Real/EB SR-78 On-Ramp, Monroe Street/Marron Road, Marron Road/Jefferson Street, Ivy Street/Daisy Avenue, and Halley Drive/Faraday Avenue.



4.3 Trails

The Carlsbad Citywide Trails network covers approximately 95 miles. **Figure 4-3** displays the current and planned trail system in the City of Carlsbad. Excluding existing sidewalk and bike lane connections (which account for 73.2 miles of the system), there are approximately 22 miles of trail network. There are 17.7 miles of existing unpaved trails, while the remaining trails are paved. The Carlsbad trail system includes three large sub-networks, as follows:

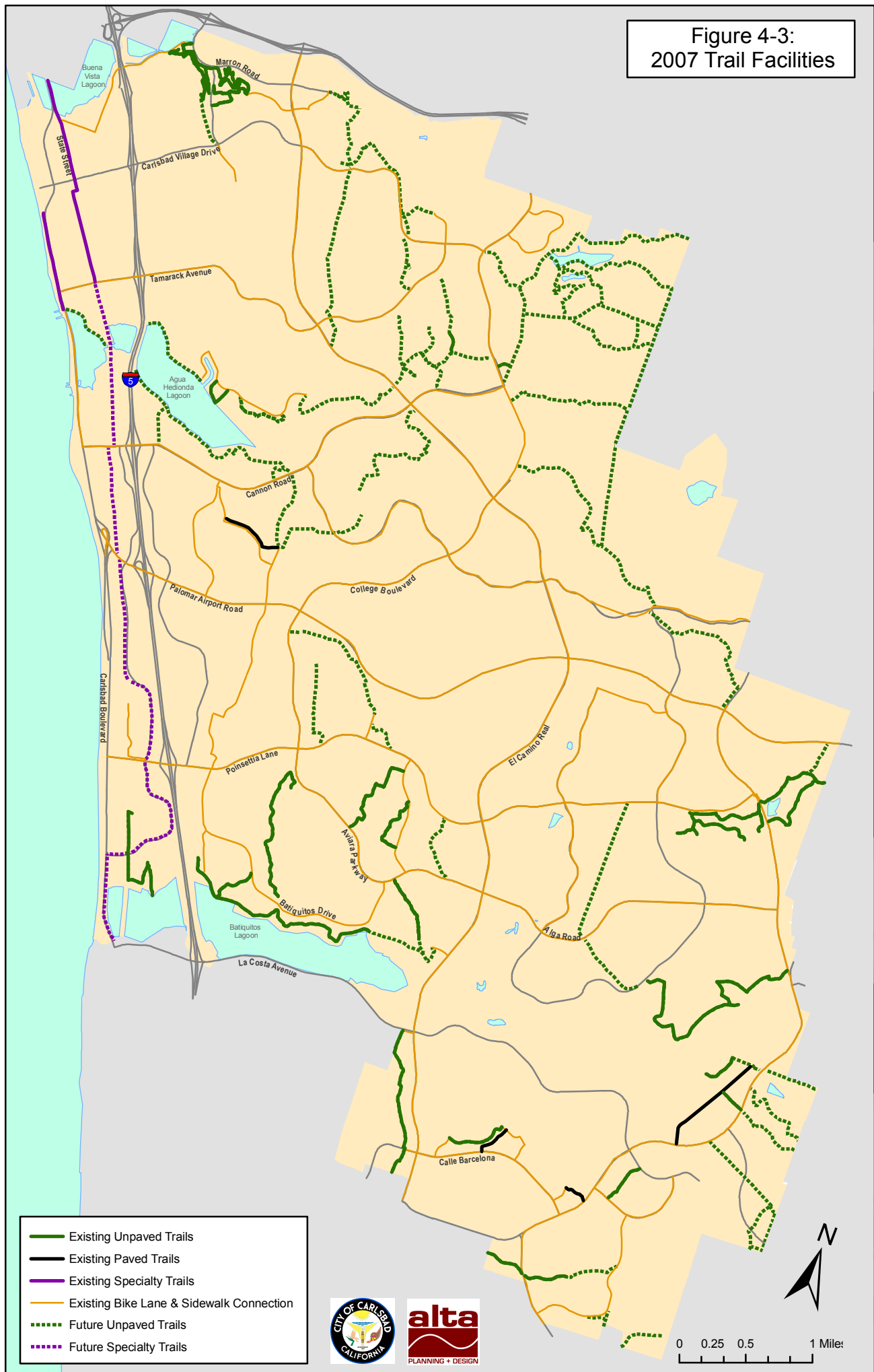
- Aviara Trail runs through residential subdivisions in southern Carlsbad and near Batiquitos Lagoon,
- Rancho Carrillo Trail runs through residential subdivisions in southeast Carlsbad, and
- Hosp Grove Trail is located just south of Buena Vista Lagoon in northern Carlsbad.

There are 2.3 miles of “specialty” trails including the Carlsbad Sea Wall and the Coastal Rail Trail, which runs alongside the San Diego Northern Railway in northwest Carlsbad (the right-of-way used by the Coaster commuter rail and Amtrak). Approximately 12 miles of the existing network are privately owned, though available for public use.

Future plans for the Carlsbad Citywide Trails network include the expansion of the Coastal Rail Trail south to the border with Encinitas, which would add an additional 5.5 miles of trail. There are also plans to expand the network of unpaved trails as residential development expands eastward in Carlsbad. Construction of future planned unpaved trails would add another 56.4 miles to the network.



Figure 4-3:
2007 Trail Facilities



4.4 Street Lights

Figure 4-4 displays the inventory of street lights in Carlsbad. There are a total of 7,355 street lights in Carlsbad. Nearly 71% of the existing sidewalk network is within 100 feet of a street light. Downtown Carlsbad along Carlsbad Village Drive and Grand Avenue has the highest concentration of street lights, averaging about one every 50 feet. Greater distances between street lights exists along the east-west arterial roadways south of Agua Hedionda Lagoon, such as Cannon Road, Palomar Airport Road, and La Costa Avenue. Street lighting along these roadways is typically spaced about 500 feet apart, although in some cases, exceeds 1,000 feet. Newer developed residential areas around the City have street light coverage with distances between lights rarely exceeding 250 feet

4.5 Crosswalks

The majority of crosswalks in Carlsbad are transverse crosswalks, however high visibility ladder crosswalks are employed in various locations. The Carlsbad Village also has a system of crosswalks with brick pavers and transverse striping. A majority of the schools in the city employ yellow crosswalks near schools consistent with MUTCD recommendations.



Figure 4-4:
2007 Street Light Inventory

